

## CCIA Report January 2003 – December 2003



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## ESTABLISHMENT OF COLORADO COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

In 1976, the Colorado General Assembly created, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. The Commission was designed to be the official liaison between the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Tribes and the State of Colorado. Legislators and Tribal leaders envisioned a productive relationship between the state and Tribal governments. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with the two Ute Indian Tribes in Colorado and the off-reservation American Indian people who live throughout the State of Colorado. The CCIA has the responsibility to investigate the needs of American Indians in Colorado and to provide assistance to alleviate those needs. The CCIA also reviews all proposed or pending legislation and amendments to existing legislation that affects American Indians in the State, and makes legislative recommendations. The CCIA holds at least four (4) quarterly meetings each year, two in Denver, one at the Southern Ute reservation (Ignacio, Colorado), and one at the Ute Mountain Ute reservation (Towaoc, Colorado).

## 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Four Corners Monument Interpretive Center

In 1899, the Four Corners monument was created marking the site where the four states, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet. One hundred years later in 1999, Senate Bill 28 passed into Public Law 106-148 for funding of the Four Corners Interpretative Center. Public Law 106-148 states that each of the four states would provide non-federal dollars to match federal dollars to construct a Four Corners Interpretative Center. With assistance from Lieutenant Governor Norton, along with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), funds were secured for Colorado's commitment to matching the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal donation of \$200,000 for the Interpretative Center. The purpose of the Four Corners Interpretive Center is to inform visitors of the archeological, cultural, and natural heritage of the State and Four Corners Region. The Center will also promote the life, art, and politics of Native people who live in the region. The Interpretive Center will focus on the Navajo and Ute Tribes as well as explore the history of ancestral Pueblo people. In addition, the Interpretive Center will promote tourism and travel around the region including parks, museums, and businesses. Completion of the Interpretive Center is projected for spring of 2005.

### American Indian Scholars

As of August 1, 2003, Coloradans have had the opportunity to obtain the American Indian Scholars license plate from the Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce (RMICC). The purpose of this plate is to financially assist prospective American Indian students in attending a Colorado institution of higher education. To date, RMICC has sold approximately 500 plates to aid students for college. If you would like to support this program you can log onto the RMICC website at [www.rmicc.org](http://www.rmicc.org), or apply in person at the Bernard Valdez Heritage Center located at 924 West Colfax Avenue. For more information please call the RMICC license plate hotline at (720) 529-4550.



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### **American Indian Heritage Month**

In recognition of American Indians in the State of Colorado, Governor Owens proclaimed November as American Indian Heritage month. In addition, the General Assembly through House Joint Resolution 03-1052 designated every November as American Indian Heritage month. American Indian Heritage month celebrates and recognizes the distinguished contributions Native Americans have made in our Nation's history in such areas as government, medicine, education, religion, architecture, the environment, and the military. To commemorate November as American Indian Heritage month, the CCIA held a special kick-off event at the Boettcher Mansion Executive Residence. Invitees included the Governor's Cabinet, State Legislators, the Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the American Indian community. Lieutenant Governor Norton served as Mistress of Ceremonies of the event. Guests enjoyed traditional Hoop and Eagle dancing performed by Derek Howell (Flandreau Santee Sioux/Pawnee) and honor songs performed by the Colorado Intertribal Group.

### **Sand Creek National Historic Site**

Under Public Law 106-465, the Sand Creek Massacre site has been established as the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site near Eads, Colorado. On November 29, 1864 approximately 700 soldiers under the command of John M. Chivington attacked the peaceful village of Cheyenne and Arapaho American Indians. In remembrance of this event, Governor Owens proclaimed November 21, 2003 thru December 6, 2003, as Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run and Remembrance Days for the Sand Creek Massacre Victims and Survivors. The CCIA assisted in planning this event.

### **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) at Work**

#### **Ancient Puebloan Remains**

The Colorado Historical Society (CHS) NAGPRA team met with representatives from the 21 Puebloan governments of New Mexico at their first consultation meeting in Denver, Colorado. These consultations addressed the approximately 250 human remains determined to be of Pueblo ancestry held at the CHS. In addition, the Navajo Nation and the three Ute Tribes are part of this on-going dialogue. Efforts to repatriate the remains are still in progress.

#### **Education**

The Colorado State Archeologist and the CCIA Executive Secretary were speakers at the 2003 Colorado Coroners Association in Glenwood Springs. The presentation entitled, "Discovery of Indian Remains," informed the coroners of their responsibility in the Unmarked Human Graves statute and created a network for information within State agencies and county officials.

#### **Preservation**

The Aurora Historic Preservation Commission placed signage, the Tollgate Creek Plaque, on the first American Indian burial site discovered in the City of Aurora. The significance of this site led the way to how future burial sites will be treated and considered in the State of Colorado. Also, the Fort Collins Museum of Fort Collins, Colorado, in consultation with the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma reburied five American Indian individuals in a city cemetery. The CCIA had been involved with their Tribal consultations throughout their claims process.

### **Minority Over Representation in Child Welfare**

With the help of the Minority Over Representation (MOR) in Child Welfare task group, discussion has opened ways to reduce over representation of minority youth in child welfare and the juvenile justice system. Currently MOR is developing a "best practices" packet to assist prospective adoptive parents with cultural awareness. The CCIA along with other organizations and agencies are trying to find ways to reduce the percentage of American Indian children in protective services and to bridge cultural differences between the foster/adopt parent and child.

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### **Acquainting with Denver Indian Community**

To become acquainted with the Denver Indian community, Lieutenant Governor Norton made site visits and toured numerous Native American organizations and agencies. These tours included the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in Boulder, Colorado; the American Indian College Fund (AICF) national headquarters located in northeast Denver, the Denver Indian Center, the Denver Indian Resource Center in Lakewood, and the Denver Art Museum's Native Arts Collection. Lieutenant Governor Norton also traveled to the Southwest Region of the State. While there she met with the Fort Lewis College President and toured the recently built Southwest Studies Center located on the Fort Lewis campus. On this same trip, the Lieutenant Governor toured the Animas La-Plata (ALP) Water Project in Ridges Basin in southwest Durango. The Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribes lead the ALP Water Project. In addition, Norton toured the newly constructed and state-of-the-art Southern Ute Tribal Affairs building.

### **Interns and Volunteers**

Ms. Seraphina Wall, a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, completed her third summer internship with the CCIA. Her contributions can be seen with the completion of the CCIA 2003 -2004 Colorado Directory of American Indian Resources located on the CCIA website: [www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor](http://www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor). Mr. Ernest House, Jr. joined the CCIA as a dedicated intern and provides support to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. A member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ernest is observing the unique relationship between State and Tribal governments. Ms. Melissa Silver, a member of the Navajo Tribe, joined the CCIA as a volunteer and also assists the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. As Melissa develops practical experience, she is also observing and learning from the Denver Indian community. As part of her volunteer experience, Melissa helped create this report. Thanks to Ms. Seraphina Wall, Mr. Ernest House, Jr. and Ms. Melissa Silver for their assistance with the CCIA and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

## **COLORADO COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS MEMBERS**

Chair  
The Honorable Jane Norton  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Colorado

The Honorable Howard Richards  
Chairman  
Southern Ute Tribe

The Honorable Mel Baker  
Tribal Council  
Southern Ute Tribe

The Honorable Manuel Heart  
Tribal Council  
Ute Mountain Ute

The Honorable Selwyn Whiteskunk  
Tribal Council  
Ute Mountain Ute

Ms. Marva Livingston Hammons, Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Human Services

Mr. Russell George, Executive Director  
Designee: Mr. Ron Cattany, Executive Director-Div. of Minerals & Geology  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Mike Beasley, Executive Director  
Designee: Mr. Ken Charles, Southwest Regional Manager  
Department of Local Affairs

Ms. Ren Freeman  
CH2M Hill Sr. Diversity Specialist  
At-Large Member

Mr. Steve Moore  
Native American Rights Fund  
At-Large Member

Mr. Doug Benevento, Executive Director  
Designee: Ms. Jill Hunsaker, Program Director  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Mr. Joseph G. Ortiz, Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Corrections

Dr. William Moloney, Commissioner  
Designee: Ms. Erlinda Archuleta, C.A.R.E. Director  
Colorado Department of Education

Mr. Tom Norton, Executive Director  
Designee: Mr. Richard Reynolds, Region V Manager  
Colorado Department of Transportation

Mr. Jeff Wells, Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

### **STAFF**

Karen Wilde Rogers, Executive Secretary  
Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs

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## 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March	May	June	July
<i>18<sup>th</sup></i> CCIA Quarterly Meeting Denver, CO For more information, call (303) 866-3027	<i>28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup></i> Beardance Southern Ute Tribe Ignacio, CO For more information, call (970) 563-0100 <i>31<sup>st</sup></i> “Walk of the Warriors” Southern Ute Tribe Ignacio, CO For more information, call (970) 563-0100	<i>2<sup>nd</sup></i> CCIA Quarterly Meeting. Towaoc, CO For more information, call (303) 866-3027 <i>4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup></i> Beardance Towaco, CO Ute Mountain Ute For more information, call (970) 564-5725	<i>1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup></i> Ute Celebration Powwow Fort Duchesne, UT For more information, call (435) 722-5141 <i>15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup></i> Ute Mountain Ute Summer Cultural Camp Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Towaoc, CO For more information, call (970) 564-5725
September	November	December	
CCIA Quarterly Meeting. Southern Ute Tribe Ignacio, CO For more information, call (303) 866-3027 <i>Third week</i> Council Tree Powwow Celebration of Ute Culture Delta, CO	“American Indian Heritage Month”	CCIA Quarterly Meeting For More information, call (303) 866-3027  Holiday Committee Ute Mountain Ute Towaoc, CO (970) 565-3751 Southern Ute Ignacio, CO (970) 563-0100	